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OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
CITY OF CAMDEN
NEW JERSEY

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CITY OF CAMDEN OUTLINES PLANS FOR PAPAL VISIT

PARKING AUTHORITY TO OFFER PRE-REGISTRATION PARKING OF PERSONAL VEHICLES AT THE WATERFRONT DURING PAPAL VISIT

CAMDEN, NJ – Mayor Dana L. Redd today outlined the City of Camden’s plans for next weekend’s visit by Pope Francis to the World Meeting of Families event in Philadelphia. Mayor Redd was joined by Camden County Freeholder Director Louis Cappelli, Jr., City Council President Frank Moran, Delaware River Port Authority CEO John Hanson, Camden County Police Department Captain Al Handy, Parking Authority of the City of Camden, Easy Philadelphia LLC, NJ State Police, Camden County Prosecutor’s Office, Camden County Sheriff’s Office, NJ Transit and others.

“This is will be a joyous, historic occasion and one that will cast a positive spotlight on this region nationally and internationally,” said **Mayor Dana Redd**. “Camden is honored to welcome visitors from through-out the world and our goal is to make the pilgrimage of thousands of people coming to see the Pope as easy and enjoyable as possible. Our City is not only a “gateway” into Philadelphia but truly the “Gateway to the Pope.”

City officials have been working in a coordinated effort with County, State and Federal agencies to plan for this event. The Camden County Police Department, New Jersey State Police and other local security agencies have been meeting with their federal counterparts for several months to insure the safety and security of everyone attending the festivities. Officials outlined those plans and commented on the expected regional impact.

“It’s an exciting time for the region and for our residents as we get closer to Pope Francis’s arrival,” said **City Council President Frank Moran**. “Camden is prepared as it’s been a well-coordinated effort by all levels of government. We encourage residents and visitors alike to share in this extraordinary occasion.”

Information was also provided to help to mitigate disruptions or delays resulting from scheduled detours, road closures, and security measures. As with most large events other international festivals of this scale, disruptions are expected. Camden residents are asked to limit travels unless necessary due to the volume of individuals who plan on attending. Residents should also avoid restricted areas in the downtown and waterfront. Residents will have full access to the City although some areas on the downtown will be restricted. It is recommended they carry identification if they plan on traveling outside of the City and upon their return, if a roadway is blocked off, they will not have any problem returning to their home.

Visitors should plan ahead before attempting to travel. Camden will be restricting vehicular access and it’s highly recommend that travelers take mass transportation. The Camden Waterfront will be open for pre-registered parking of privately operated vehicles. Those who park on the Camden Waterfront will have access to the closest lots to the Papal venues. They will have the options of walking across the Ben Franklin Bridge, riding a PATCO train or crossing on the Ferry (ADA Compliant for disabled Attendees). Click and Park, a nationally known company that has done large events such as the Super Bowl, has been designated as

our online vendors. Parking is limited to approximately 8,000 parking spaces and individuals can pre-registration for parking at www.gatewaytothepope.com.

Basic tips for visitors and residents:

- Individuals should plan ahead.
- Expect disruptions and ask that all residents, businesses and visitors be prepared well in advance.
- Anticipate delays as a result of scheduled detours, road closures, and expect high levels of security.
- For local residents and businesses we ask that they limit travel.
- There will be restricted access along select roadway and in the downtown area.
- Highly recommend taking mass transportation.
- There will be no overnight sleeping in vehicles, parks, parking lots or camping. This is prohibited and will be enforced by police personnel.
- Walking paths have been established for those individuals who will be attending the events in Philadelphia. Access is limited to only those who have preregistered for the events.
- For those who decide to walk be prepared to walk distances, wear comfortable walking shoes and stay hydrated.
- Before traveling or walking distances, know you physical limitations.
- Always be aware surroundings and report any suspicious activity to authorities.

“The Freeholder Board is happy to welcome everyone participating in the World Meeting of Families to our county seat- Camden City. This honor that is being bestowed on our region, and Pope’s Francis’s first trip to U.S. soil, will mark an unprecedented event for the Delaware Valley,” **Freeholder Director Louis Cappelli said**. “Now that personal vehicle parking is available upon registration on the Camden waterfront the pilgrimage can become much easier and convenient for anyone who is looking to have an ideal proximity to downtown Philadelphia. Park in Camden, ride PATCO or take the ferry from the waterfront and arrive in Center City in minutes. This is the best way to go to see the Pontiff.”

“The Pope’s visit to Philadelphia will mark one of the largest events the Delaware Valley has seen in a generation,” said **Freeholder Michelle Gentek, liaison to the Department of Public Safety**. “Millions of people in late September are estimated to attend the Pontiff’s public mass on Sunday and hundreds of thousands will be going to events during the World Meeting of Families. It is our job to make sure pilgrims are safe to travel and know where to go for this historic occasion.”

DRPA officials also announced that PATCO will provide on-site ticket sales at their stations and gave an overview of prohibited travel items.

“This is a joyous, once in a lifetime event and the DRPA and PATCO are honored to be able to partner with the City of Camden, Camden County and other agencies on both sides of the river to help make this a success,” said **John Hanson, DRPA CEO/PATCO President**. “Our teams have been working virtually around the clock to prepare to receive and welcome the many pilgrims who will be attending this event. While there may be some inconveniences, we are committed to ensuring that everyone who crosses our bridge or rides on our train line has a safe and enjoyable experience.”

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